



Soundview Park, Bronx, New York Ecosystem Restoration Study

As of: February 2012

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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DESCRIPTION

The lower Bronx River estuary once supported a network of salt marshes, wetland and upland meadows, and oak-hickory forests. Soundview Park encompasses 205 acres along the east bank of the lower Bronx River as it empties into the East River. It has experienced extreme aquatic ecosystem habitat degradation due to coastal filling and shore hardening. Opportunities exist to restore part of the historic natural ecosystem in an area that has been adversely affected by intense development.

AUTHORIZATION: Section 206 of WRDA 1996, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration [22 U.S.C. 2330].

STATUS: The Army Corps of Engineers, New York District completed a Preliminary Restoration Plan, which concluded positive Federal interest. In 2009, the Ecosystem Restoration Report [i.e. Feasibility Report] and accompanying Environmental Assessment was provided to the public for comment. In December 2009 the District executed a Project Partnership Agreement with New York City Department of Parks and Recreation [NYC Parks]. The project is proportioned at a 65-35 cost share [Federal 65% and Non-Federal 35%].

An approximate \$4,000,000 base construction contract was awarded to Galvin Brothers Inc. in September 2011. Additional options within the contract worth an approximate \$1,300,000 may also be exercised.

The Project will restore aquatic ecosystem resources and adjacent upland habitat in southern Soundview Park, and contribute to improved water quality by increasing the area of functional salt marsh that can remove nutrients from the water column, trap sediment and provide habitat for wetland dependant fish and wildlife. Approximately 3.7 acres in Soundview Park immediately north of the park's lagoon area will be vegetated tidal wetland of what is currently a Common Reed [*Phragmites sp.*] and debris dominated area. Construction is currently underway.

Additional agencies that have partnered with the New York District and NYC Parks on this project are New York State Department of Environmental Conservation [NYSDEC] and New York City Department of Sanitation [DSNY]. A portion of the created salt marsh will lie within NYSDEC's property. The Soundview Park Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project is identified in the Bronx River Basin Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study, the Hudson Raritan Estuary's Comprehensive Restoration Plan and in the Vision 2020 New York City Comprehensive Waterfront Plan.

COST:

	Federal	Non-Federal [NYC Parks]
Feasibility, Design and Implementation Phases*	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 2,423,000

* Values provided are approximated and include the costs for the study, design, and construction of the project. Values do not include an additional approximate \$1,526,000 from NYC Parks and \$1,000,000 from DSNY which will be used to create betterments within the Park totaling the entire project to over \$9.5 million and 15 acres of wetland, grassland, and forest restored.

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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS: Congressional Districts: NY-07, NY-16